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Students of Bryn Mawr College

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THE COLLEGE NEWS

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BRYN MAWR COLLEGE

SEPTEMBER 24, 1992

Lynn Yeakel: a view of women in politics

By Erika Merschrod

This past weekend, the Bryn Mawr community had the exciting opportunity to participate in a panel discussion involving some very important women (and a couple of men) from today's political scene. Among the more famous guests invited were Hillary Clinton, a no-show due to campaign demands, and Lynn Yeakel, candidate for the United States Senate.

Lynn Yeakel, a resident of Rosemont, is familiar with the public service scene both on a local and national level, so she is well acquainted with both the hindrances and the advantages to being a woman in the male-dominated political arena. She was, therefore, a natural choice to introduce Saturday morning's panel on "Getting Elected: Advantages and Obstacles."

In her opening remarks, Yeakel mentioned that the Clarence Thomas hearings (or rather, their transformation into the Anita Hill hearings) inspired her to join the senatorial race in January. At the time, she said, she didn't know that so many other women would also be running, which shows how lacking we women are when it comes to networking in politics.

Ms. Yeakel stressed the importance of coalitions and the power in numbers, citing as an example the great success that she had in taking Women's Way from a struggling group of fund-raisers to a strong coalition that provides much-needed assistance to women in this area and nationwide.

Which brings us to the issue of money. As Clare Wofford said later in the day, politicians spend most of their campaigning time (and a large part of their elected

time) seeking funds and creating a resource network. For a woman, as one could well imagine, the time needed to raise an equivalent amount of money as compared to her male counterparts is so disproportionate that this alone discourages many women from becoming involved in running for elected offices and prevents many of those who do run from obtaining those offices.

Despite setbacks produced by scarce funds for women candidates, lack of strong, female backing or "old girl" networks, and blatant sexism, not to mention a history of frightened men who have quelled our every move toward an equality of the sexes, there are a few advantages to being a woman in politics.

In Lynn Yeakel's case specifically, being a newcomer and an "outsider" (most women being viewed as outsiders) has made her a symbol of change and hope. As a member of an oppressed majority (namely women), she will most probably sympathize with other disenfranchised groups such as the elderly. All of this can be extended to a more general view of a woman challenging a male incumbent.

Women entering the field of politics today have very different backgrounds than do men in similar positions. The women often have families, and thus many know first-hand about working high pressure jobs on a limited time schedule and budget.

They may not have experience in politics, but, to quote Ms. Yeakel, they have the "politics of experience." They bring to their jobs a different set of skills, skills often overlooked because they were gained in a volunteer capacity. Most of all, according to Yeakel, women bring a sense of integrity to their positions, and a responsibility (often wrapped up in guilt brought about by a patriarchal "women are the caretakers" mentality as discussed by Allyson Schwarz, another speaker in this panel and a state senator) to their constituents that they will represent them all.

In summary, Lynn Yeakel expressed a feeling that women have a very important place in politics as women and as promoters of change. All issues are women's issues, and so-called "women's issues" are actually issues that affect our whole society.

Fear of a campus of color? Admissions' reassessment

By Tania Sloan and
Lourdes-marie Prophete

A very complicated and powerful agency of Bryn Mawr has made serious decisions that affect the whole student body—every race and class. The "quiet" decision made by the Admissions Office to no longer consider Asian-Americans as minorities in the recruitment process has left many people stunned, and many more unaware of this change.

The Admissions Office's exact policy on how Asians are considered in recruitment is unclear. Even within the Admissions Office there exists conflicting stories. Some officers will tell you that Asian-Americans are a "grey area" right now—we are not sure how to classify them. Others will tell you that they are no longer "priority." Still others will say that yes, Asian-Americans are minorities, but minority recruitment will focus on African-American and Latino students since the Asians are "over-represented" at Bryn Mawr.

Some extremely serious issues arise from this decision. Why should the Hispanic and African-American students' gain be the Asian-American students' loss? This policy pits group against group. Who has the power to decide what ethnic group will be considered "minorities" for the year or how many of an ethnic group is considered enough? Admissions seems to think that Asian-American students are doing quite well at Bryn Mawr.

Well, if this same reasoning were applied to the Caucasian population, then why aren't we cutting back on their recruitment and focusing completely on other minority groups? I guess it's a fear

of a campus of color. Instead of saying we do not need to focus on their recruitment, why not recruit from "under-represented" Asian-American communities?

This is part of a larger issue. How does Admissions' recruitment, especially minority recruitment, actually work? What is Bryn Mawr's policy on diversity? Is there a quota of minorities they want to reach and then no more?

Most of the students at Bryn Mawr come from very similar socioeconomic backgrounds, even the minority students. Admissions officers will explain to you that, because many high schools consisting mainly of minority students have a lower quality of education (i.e. no foreign language) and therefore lower SAT scores, they are having to make exceptions to bring them here.

Does the Admissions Office have a Minority Recruitment plan? The Minority "Coordinator" (not recruiter) has two and a half geographic regions to cover and knows that her position is very temporary. The office is planning to hire a recruiter by June. Until then what is being done for the class of 1997 and 1998, besides searching through a few computer databases of minority students?

Three student intern positions were formed. At \$400 a semester (an important position obviously, at that pay), these students will assist the Minority Coordinator. The Admissions Office expresses the hope that the positions will be filled by one African-American, one Asian-American and one Latino student, but also point out that, in the interview process, such a neat result is not guaranteed.

see Admissions reassessment on pg. 3

Photo by Lena Kopelow



Clare Wofford expounds on a woman's place in politics at the symposium on Saturday, September 19 in Thomas Great Hall, as Mary Pat looks on.

"Women in Politics" at Bryn Mawr

By Elizabeth Lyzenga and
Erika Merschrod

"Should we fight not to be special but equal, or fight to be special and articulate in the ways in which we have been special?" This question was raised by Billie Gaines, moderator of the first discussion panel, "In and Out: Do Women Have a Special Role in Politics?" of this weekend's symposium, "Leaders — Born or Made? Women in Politics." It continued to be an important topic of debate for the remainder of the weekend, as many women (and two men) who hold political positions in the professional and volunteer arenas convened to salute the growing presence of females in power.

The first panel involved three women, two of whom could be seen as having a direct conflict of ideals: Kathryn Roth is working for the Clinton campaign while another, Lisa Shiffren, writes speeches for Dan Quayle. An interesting diversion occurred when, in response to an audience question, Shiffren stated that gender was a non-issue when women formed their political opinions.

Roth countered with her own opinion that a woman's perspective must necessarily be different than a man's, and a brief argument ensued. Unfortunately

this departure from the format was interrupted almost immediately, but not before two opinions had been presented as being in opposition, namely whether the woman or the politician is the moving force of a woman politician.

Continuing in this vein, in another panel Clare Wofford, wife of U.S. senator Harris Wofford, suggested that women politicians, more so than their male counterparts, are honest and concerned with domestic issues. Marjorie Margolies Mezvinsky, candidate for US representative, agreed that a woman's perspective is different than a man's, but she proposed that the difference lies in the popular perception of women as outsiders and elements of change.

The dispute continues over whether or not we, as women, have something special to offer the political scene in the United States and around the world. Although the symposium was tedious and inconclusive at times, it brought exciting people to Bryn Mawr and prompted some interesting debate both in and out of the panel-discussion format.

Hopefully we will continue to explore these issues, because they affect all of us, men and women, aspiring politicians or not.



iving our own private Bryn Mawr

see centerspread on pages six and seven

Gary Garber's "Disorientation Guide"— the Bi-college answer to consumer reports

To the Community:

1 Sept 1992

I have read Gary Garber's "Disorientation Guide" for Haverford and Bryn Mawr very carefully, some parts of it several times. Concerning the practical aspects: maps, restaurant guides and so forth, I have few comments. It's an excellent idea, and it is certainly more interesting and useful than anything I have seen put out by either college. Readability might be improved by changing layout, but that's a picky detail.

I am making my comments public for several reasons. I understand that our beloved and fearless leaders, the administrators of both colleges, are less than pleased with the Guide. Therefore, it would come as no surprise to me if there was an effort to "discourage" its re-publication. It would be a pity to dampen the forcefulness of the Guide, and to suppress it would be censorship.

The Guide is by no means the best thing since free dental dams. The comments about professors' personal lives are unnecessary and give the Guide a tabloid feel, reducing its credibility. I also feel that including the names of specific students is a bad idea. Professors and administrators are public figures and a no-holds-barred approach is fair. Declaring open season on fellow students is not fair. While I know that careful and thorough efforts were made in this vein, I would like to point out that potentially inflammatory material requires extraordinarily careful editing: more quotation marks.

My personal objections aside, I think the Guide is a necessary publication, not just as a vehicle of free speech, or a good laugh. I am starting my fourth year at Bryn Mawr, and while there are many things about it that I love and value, there are certainly things which I actively hate. There have been many times when I feel that the College does not respect its students, either intellectually or emotionally. While I am less familiar with Haverford, I know of people who have similar feelings about it.

The Disorientation Guide is a powerful voice which directly addresses the alleged purpose of both institutions: the education process which takes place in

classrooms between professors and students. We and our parents pay through the nose for the privilege of attending these institutions and are humiliated and frustrated by Financial Aid and the Comptrollers for our trouble (apologies to Ms. Monnich and Ms. Mangano). As the custodians of our hard-earned education, professors are critical to successful learning. Students are responsible for their own behavior, but what isn't taught can't be learned. This should be obvious, but sometimes I wonder.

Because of their power over students' learning process, professors and administrators need to know the effects of their methods, and what students have to say about these effects. I don't mean in the language students use for them, but in the language they use for each other. Even anonymous classroom evaluations can be influenced by fear for a grade, to say nothing of comments made directly to professors. I realize that the Guide is not meant for professors and administrators; however, in a small community they are bound to hear about it, even if they don't own a copy.

While a mere student's opinion may be set aside, I would like to point out that colleges are primarily for students. Again, this should be an obvious statement, not a radical revelation. The Guide is by students, for students. In the crudest possible terms, the clientele are evaluating the commodity. The Disorientation Guide is Consumer Reports.

It lets students know which professors are respected and which ones are not and why. Done properly, such a publication can help keep us all honest. It is not meant to be the absolute guideline for determining one's academic career. That is explicitly stated. However, it is a practical tool and may be an effective vehicle for changes which are necessary at both Colleges.

Elleanor H. Chin,
BMC '93

Copies of this will be sent to:

President Mary Patterson McPherson—Bryn Mawr College; Tom Kessinger—President of Haverford College; Karen Tidmarsh—Dean of the Undergraduate College, Bryn Mawr; The Bi-College News; Gary Garber HC '93.

THE COLLEGE NEWS

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Saturday-nite special

Erica Merschrod

This is the first issue of the semester. The deadline for the October 8 issue of The College News is Friday, October 2 at 5 p.m. Letters and articles should be left in front of our Denbigh office or put in our mailbox (c1716). All submissions should be on a Mac disk; disks will be returned (we promise). We will accept articles written by women and letters from men. All opinions expressed in articles and letters are those of the authors only and are not representative of the opinions of the Ed board. Come to the Thursday night meetings at 9:00 p.m., or call one of the editors if you are interested in contributing to the news.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: The College News is a feminist newsjournal which serves as a source of information and self-expression for the Bryn Mawr community. Recognizing that feminism is a collective process, we attempt to explore issues of interest to all women, both as members of this college and of the larger world community. Through this continuing dialogue, we seek to promote communication and understanding and to foster self-confidence and independence in expression.

Editors' note

We want to take this opportunity to invite all interested Bryn Mawr women—undergraduate, graduate, Post-bac and McBride—to write for *The College News*. Meanwhile, if there are issues that are being overlooked that you would like to see addressed in very specific terms, please bring them to our notice.

We are interested in finding a Sports Editor, to help us inform, excite, and celebrate with one another the wealth of athletic activities and victories that go on here. Please call us if you are interested in the position.

We would also like to urge all photographers on campus to send us your "quintessential Bryn Mawr" pics to be printed in the paper. As Bryn Mawr is so many different things to different people, we'd like to display some of the unique views that students have. If you are interested in working on the photography staff, contact the photo editor, Amy (box c1227).

Our weekly editorial meetings are opportunities for interested students to discuss the things that affect, amuse and/or enrage them (both on campus and off) and to delve deeper into the issues that matter to us as a community. Our aim is to continue a tradition of open dialogue between and among students and, more generally, women. We invite any and all interested students to drop by Thursday nights at 9:00 p.m. in the news office (x7340) in Denbigh Hall.



Non-smoker's demand for action, for all of our rights

To the community:

Do we really need more discussion on the new smoking policy?

Do I need to point out that the administration TOTALLY disregarded our rights with the policy? That they waited for those couple of weeks between the end of Summer-Session and the start of Fall Semester so that there wouldn't be any dissension from us pesky students? It shouldn't matter whether or not you are a smoker, you should stand up and demand that the administration apologize for their under-handed tactics.

Regardless, I can understand the enforcement of the policy in the Café and in Haffner. In both of those areas, there is no way to enclose the smoking section. But I am unable to comprehend why the Erdman smoker has been changed to non-smoking. I sat in there for most of last year. The doors were sometimes open and sometimes not. It all depended on how people felt and if those by the doors were bothered by the smoke; if they were, then the doors were promptly shut. End of problem.

As a non-smoker and a Mawrter I have been surprised and worried at the re-

sponses by some non-smokers. They seem to feel vindicated, righteous, and almost vicious in their glee about the 'smokers getting kicked out of the smoker.' A solution I have heard of is for the individual smoker to step outside and smoke when they feel the need. Yes, well, that would mean traipsing through Erdman, breaking up a meal and usually a conversation, to go and smoke in an uncomfortable setting and then coming all the way back.

What a lot of people at Bryn Mawr don't realize is that, for the most part, the campus is closed to smokers. They have very few places where they can just kick back, relax with their friends, and smoke. Yes, they know what they do is dangerous to their health, but that is their choice and, if there is an enclosed room for them to use, no one else would be bothered.

One thing that cannot be discounted is the petition that had over 400 signatures. Not all of the people who signed it are smokers demanding their right to smoke but Mawrers of all stripes safeguarding all of our rights.

Brooks Constantine, BMC '94

Admissions' reassessment

article continued from page one

Thus, the positions could potentially be filled by, say, two Asian-Americans and one African-American: this leaves one or possibly two groups unrepresented, something with which minority students on this campus are not comfortable.

Just how much control or support these students are given will be interesting to see. Yet, who do they have to work with? Most Admissions Officers are gone during the year recruiting. After Perspectives Weekend, all Admissions Officers will supposedly be out for quite some time, except one.

The Admissions Office has increased the tension between the students of color organizations. What students must remember is that when any ethnic group is hurt, all of us are harmed. We do need to increase the African-American, Latino,

Native American, and mixed populations on this campus.

However, don't do it by hurting one minority ethnic group to supposedly help another. Students must rethink how their organizations are working to bring about change.

The practice of "looking out for our own" only supports the present practice of recruitment. Students will never overcome this "Minority Ceiling" that is in place by fighting one another.

A solution will not present itself overnight, but even if a small dent is made in the established system, something will have been accomplished. Question those in power, be willing to work with them, and communicate with one another. In other words, put your damn books aside, and unite to conquer the establishment.

The smoking debate analyzed

By Laura Brower

Though Bryn Mawr College smokers looked forward to lighting up with their friends in Haffner and Erdman Dining Halls and the Café upon their return to college this year, they were soon to be disappointed. Indeed, they were to find 'no smoking' signs posted in those places.

Within the first few days of classes, a petition, initiated by Sarah Rockwell and Micki McElya among others, began to circulate on campus questioning not only the decision itself but also the manner in which it was made.

According to Heather Diehl in the *Bi-College News*, the petition and an accompanying letter, were submitted on September 4th to President McPherson, Dean Tidmarsh, and several Dining Services Officials. On September 6th, Sarah Rockwell announced to the Student Association Assembly (SGA) that about 460 Mawrters had signed the petition. Community concern on the issue was obviously significant.

As smokers and non-smokers expressed their opinions, the sources of this concern came to the surface. Smokers were astonished and, in some cases, hurt by the decision. The letter accompanying the petition revealed these feelings. The decision was characterized by smokers as intolerant and unfair.

Patti Gadick, a 'once-in-a-while-smoker', declared, "I was surprised because I had seen Bryn Mawr as more tolerant and willing to buck the mainstream." Referring to neighboring Haverford College's new restrictive smoking policy, Gadick also said, "We're not Haverford; there are many smokers here."

Unaware, sometimes, of any problem relating to smoking on campus, smokers felt suddenly alienated from a community where previously they had felt comfortable. A meal followed with a cup of coffee and a cigarette is a social staple for many smokers, and many felt that their right to that simple pleasure had been robbed.

The three eating areas mentioned above had become traditional socializing areas, of which there are few on campus, as Sarah Rockwell mentioned to the SGA assembly on the 6th. Carol Oglesby, the McBride Student Representative at SGA, in turn expressed the concern of fellow commuting McBride students, who regretted the loss of the time when they could simply sit down

for a cup of coffee and a cigarette at the Café. Indeed, the Café had become their social gathering area in many ways.

However, non-smokers and smokers alike contested the way in which the decision to ban smoking in eating areas was made. The signs appeared during the month of August, while students were away for the summer. Patti Gadick points out, "The administration was inconsiderate. They just went ahead and did it without consulting the students." All were amazed and confused in light of Bryn Mawr's tradition of dialogue, communication, and compromise.

Information soon came to light as to why the decision had been made. The decision to ban smoking in the three areas was based on a 1988 Lower Merion Township ordinance. The students who started the petition raised questions concerning the delay between the passage of the ordinance and its application to Bryn Mawr. They pointed out that the ordinance did not ban smoking but merely restricted it.

The administration responded through Debra Thomas, chair of the Ordinance Smoking Policy Committee at Bryn Mawr College, created in 1988 in order to conform to the new regulations. According to Diehl, Thomas explained that the Office of Occupational Safety and Health at Bryn Mawr College had decided upon new ventilation requirements, with which the three smoking areas did not conform. Not only this, but Dining Services had also received complaints from non-smoking students, staff and faculty.

Arati Vasan, SGA President, offered more explanation to the SGA Assembly on September 6th. Craig Goodrich, Head of Dining Services, informed Arati that, in view of the complaints received, Thomas had advised him to protect non-smokers' rights in full. Indeed the text of the Lower Merion Township Ordinance states, "The right of a non-smoker to smoke-free air will prevail over an employee's [here, read student's] desire to smoke." Before the polemic around smoking began, the existence of such complaints had been unknown to the community as a whole. Now, however, non-smokers seem to be voicing their concern.

Before the SGA Assembly, Jessica Jerinigan argued that the Erdman smoker should not have become non-smoking, as it was a separate room, with its own

see Smoking debate on page 8

Many things will be occurring soon to help bring about important changes. On Tuesday, September 28th, from 8pm-10pm, a "fishbowl" discussion will take place in the Campus Center to talk about the Admissions' Office policy and minority student status, as well as other issues.

Students must communicate with one another and let the people running this "business" know that they

will react and fight for campus-wide change.

A committee will also be formed to help bring about change and communication within the student community. What changes and how to bring them about will be discussed on Tuesday and on the committee. This committee will also discuss ways to improve multiculturalism in the community. Every facet of Bryn Mawr will be examined.

BECHDEL BECHDEL BECHD

Dykes To Watch Out For



BECHDEL BECHDEL BECHD

Petition begs tolerance

Editors' note: The following is a petition drawn up by some concerned parties who wanted a redress of the decision to make the smoking areas in Haffner, Erdman, and the Café non-smoking; it was signed by over 450 people on the Bryn Mawr campus.

September 1, 1992

To President McPherson, Dean Tidmarsh, Dining Services and other friends:

For years, the smoking section in the Café has been a meeting place for smokers and non-smokers alike. This is also true for the smoking sections in Haffner and Erdman. While we were away, the decision was made to close them without consulting students and employees concerning the implications of such action.

The posted signs assert that the ban is the result of a Lower Merion Township Ordinance. We believe this to be a misleading claim that borders on a blatant lie. The Ordinance clearly defines "eating and drinking places" as areas where smoking must be restricted, not prohibited.

Throughout Lower Merion there are many restaurants and cafeterias that permit smoking and do not seem to have any problems with the Township. The ordinance is dated March 15, 1988, and but only now does it effect Bryn Mawr.

We seriously doubt that the new ban is the result of this old ordinance. Perhaps those responsible have chosen to blame others in an attempt to avoid a confrontation with students, employees and faculty.

Where is the tradition of tolerance that makes Bryn Mawr a pluralistic community? It is still here, among us, but seems to be disappearing at the administrative level. Smokers and non-smokers have always respected each other in our community, and in fact, many of us signing this petition are non-smokers. This new ban acts to destroy that harmony and isolate smokers from the community. Smokers cannot always choose to eat or drink coffee off campus and many of us must eat in the dining halls. With so few available alternatives, this ban is quite exclusionary.

Let us remember that the members of this community, pioneers in so many areas, were responsible for the landmark decision of 1925 that allowed, for the first time in this country, women to smoke at a college.

Our goal is to see the smoking sections in the dining halls and the Café returned to their smoking status. We request a meeting with those administrators who are involved with this ban to discuss our concerns. Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Boot up, log in, drop out: Neo-hyper cyber madness now at Guild Hall

By Nina Karp

Yes, paving the way towards your thesis, English paper or lab report are five brand new computing machines, shiny, ergonomically designed and just itching to serve you.

By name, they are two DEC 5000/240, fondly known as hobbies and "cc." Three Sun SPARCstations, kelvin, hopper and, sentimentally, "math", round out the new family, with 2 Silicon Graphics Indigo workstations expected in the near future.

Workstations? you may ask. DEC? Sun? The callow youth may even ask "Guild Hall? What's that?"

Guild (pronounced Guy-ild and commonly mispronounced Gild, as in Ye Olde Computing Guild) is the computing center. Nestled between Dalton and Denbigh, traditionally Mawrters have traveled to this quaint building to kneel in front of one of the many terminals, to collect electronic mail or type up a paper.

But the winds of change have swept through Guild. The old VT100 terminals are finding employment as planters and modern art (see back of old VAX bay for exhibition.) The VAX8350 casing has been converted to low-rent housing for several families.

The triumphant entrance of Unix marks a new era of technological sophistication at Bryn Mawr, one in which we are much much less than ten years behind the times.

Also quivering at the bit are 7 Macintosh LC2s and one IIsi, all primarily for computer science and math applications. For MS-DOS lovers, a flock of new Gateway 386s and even a few golden 486s have settled upon us.

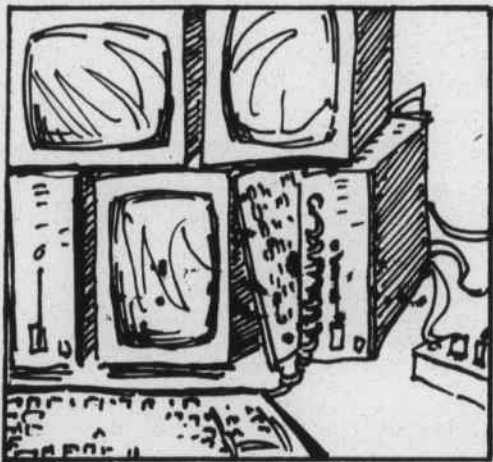
These new machines are linked to the Internet, so e-mail is again available. To open up your account, bring a 3.5" disk (that's the little plastic ones, guys, which are incidentally not the same as a hard disk) to the Center, ask your friendly On-duty what to do, and link yourself in to a worldwide network.

All of the new systems are extremely easy to use, so don't be intimidated. Technology is your friend.

However, those who would like to be guided through the dizzying world of word processing and e-mail should call Eileen at x5002; you may still be able to get a slot in one of our workshops for the technologically curious,

which will be conducted over the next week.

When asked to comment upon the switchover, the DEC 5000 whirred enigmatically and said, "login."



Will new FDA legislation take vitamins and herbs away from consumers?

By Emily Cotlier

Imagine this: in the fall of 1993, you get a cold. You go to the drugstore to get some Vitamin C tablets. However, at the local Thrift Drug the shelves that used to hold vitamins are filled with chemical depilatories and hair crimpers. You ask the pharmacist, "Do you have any Vitamin C?"

"Certainly," she says, "may I see your prescription?"

There are three Food and Drug Administration (FDA) bills currently pending in Congress—HR-3642, S-2135, and S-1982—that could make the above scenario a reality. Currently, with those three bills, the FDA is trying to increase the power that the Nutrition Labeling and Education Act (NLEA) of 1990 gives them over dietary supplements.

The NLEA bill allows certain products to make health claims based on nutrition, under the FDA's supervision. (The FDA has been notably reluctant to act on this bill, refusing, for example, a Kellogg's bran cereal the right to include on its packaging the information that a high-fiber diet helps prevent colon cancer.)

Dietary supplements are a wide range of products that straddle the line between "food" and "drug": vitamin and mineral pills, herbal extracts, pills, and teas, and hyper-nutritious drink powders. As consumer awareness of alternative medicine and nutrition science grows, so does the demand for dietary supplements.

If the three FDA sponsored bills pass, dietary supplements will become much more difficult to obtain. The FDA would have the authority to recall "food, drug, cosmetic and medical devices" without any tangible proof of the substance's harmfulness. The FDA could also seize and/or embargo products without scientific evidence or judicial review, and issue subpoenas and tremendous fines when there is "reason to believe" that violations have occurred.

If the three bills pass, these measures could be set in motion at the discretion of FDA inspectors—a level of power unsettlingly close to that of police-state enforcers. Due to the nature of civil and administrative lawsuits, the burden of obtaining legal and judicial responses to any FDA action will be shunted onto the citizens and businesses they aggrieve.

What does this mean for you?

The main issue at stake here is the right to try and heal yourself or improve your own health, at your own discretion, in the way you want. Many nutritionists, dieticians, and doctors give advice on what supplements to take for everything from bodybuilding to cancer and AIDS.

Individuals read books about herbalism and nutrition, and get the supplements to treat themselves. Often, people who turn to this kind of alternative medicine are fed up with the conventional medical establishment, and tired

of chemical medicines and invasive treatments that do not work for them.

The only people who would benefit from the three FDA bills are those involved in the established pharmaceutical industry, the FDA, and some doctors. In several cases, the FDA has systematically harassed doctors who did nutritional therapy using allergen-free B-12 and amino acids. After searching their offices and records and making threatening statements, the FDA declined to press charges.

The FDA has also been seizing herbal remedies such as Evening Primrose Oil (EPO). EPO was seized the grounds that it is an unsafe and unapproved food additive. EPO has been the subject of clinical studies because it contains gamma linolenic acid and has proven very useful in alleviating the discomfort associated with menopause. It is widely used here and abroad as a supplement: the capsules are not broken open and mixed with food, as a food additive would be.

A few months after the FDA legislation was proposed, Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah introduced the Health Freedom Act of 1992, S-2835. This bill was created to support freedom of access to dietary supplements. It prohibits the FDA from regulating dietary supplements, either as drugs or food additives. It would also permit health claims for such products that are not misleading and that have good scientific basis.

A companion bill, H.R. 5748, has been introduced in the House of Representatives. If these acts pass, the makers and users of dietary supplements will have more access to information about them and will be protected from further FDA harassment. You will continue to be able to choose to use supplements as a boost during exam time, a treatment when ill, or an aid for athletic training.

Neither of the two sets of bills has been passed yet. They will be voted on before the year is over. If you want to make a difference, write these members of congress (names and addresses listed below) and tell them where you stand on the issue, or get involved in a volunteer group.

In the House of Representatives:

-Bill Richardson, NM, 332 Cannon Bldg., Wash, DC, 20515-3103
-Peter M. Kostmayer, PA, 2346 Rayburn House Office Bldg., Wash, DC, 20515-3808

In the Senate:

-Barbara A. Mikulski, MD, 320 Hart Office Bldg, Wash, DC, 20510-2003
-Christopher Dodd, CT, 440 Russel Senate Office Bldg, Wash, DC, 20510-0702

To Volunteer:

-Citizens Alliance for Progressive Health Awareness, Box 394, Wayne, PA, 19087, 609-845-8263

Information sources for this article are available if requested.

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Dykes To Watch Out For



BECHDEL BECHDEL BECHD

Prouldy presenting the Traditions' Mistresses:

The new and somewhat non-traditional mistresses of our hallowed campus rituals have decided to forego the usual traditions' column in favor of the following:

tired,
hungry
and
looking
for
candles

THE TRADITIONS CARTOON 92-93

WE WOULD
LIKE TO INTRODUCE
OURSELVES. WE ARE...

THE TRADITIONS TOMATOES

OR →

MICKI

KRISTEN

WE ARE TWO SAUCEY LITTLE TOMATOES HERE TO SERVE YOU IN A TRADITIONAL CAPACITY. PRICES VARY FOR OTHER SERVICES.

IN THE FUTURE, THIS STRIP WILL BE DONE CLOSER TO THE COLLEGE NEWS' PRESSTIME AND THUS, MORE UP TO THE MINUTE. FOR NOW, WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO ALL NEW STUDENTS. WE HOPE YOU ENJOY OUR TRADITIONS AND COME TO LOVE THEM AS WE DO.

AND TO ALL OF YOU RED

HOT, RETURNING BRYN MAWR CHICS, WELCOME BACK TO THE ACADEMIC HELL WE PAY SO MUCH FOR.

SO IF YOUR NEEDS ARE TRADITIONAL, COME TO THE TOMATOES. WE DON'T BITE... THE FIRST TIME.

Why Don't Girls Play With Trucks and Boys Play With Dolls ?
What Does It Really Mean to Call Someone A Faggot?
How Many Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual People Do you Know?
Why Are Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Students Harassed?

What Can You Do About It?

CHANGE!

Campus Homophobia Action and Greater Education

Let's make changes in our community and our lives! We are an alliance of people of all sexualities and backgrounds committed to educating the college community about homophobia and heterosexism. Become a peer educator, an activist, or just a member of CHANGE. Join now!

Meetings are currently Saturdays at 5:30 pm for dinner in the Erdman Front Smoker.

Contact Catherine Herne, box C-1329, X7519 for more info.

Photo by Amy Cavalier



Thomas Great Hall, after extensive renovation, is now once again open to students. Presently housing a sculpture exhibit, the hall should now once again be a regular space for lectures, parties, and for students to study in more elegant surroundings than Canaday has to offer.

Dykes To Watch Out For

stunned

©1992 BY ALISON BECHDEL

I LOVE YOU A LOT MO, BUT I'M JUST NOT IN LOVE ANY MORE. I'M STARTING TO REALIZE THAT I'VE BEEN UNHAPPY FOR A LONG TIME NOW.

THINGS HAVE GOTTEN SO... SO STAGNANT BETWEEN US. WE'VE STOPPED GROWING.

I NEED TO BE ALONE FOR A WHILE. SORT OUT MY FEELINGS, GET IN TOUCH WITH MYSELF.

MO, TALK TO ME!

WHAT'S LEFT TO SAY HARRIET? YOU USED UP ALL THE GOOD CLICHES! GOD, I FEEL LIKE I'M TRAPPED IN A BAD SOAP OPERA!

LEMME THINK A MINUTE... OH! I KNOW! HOW ABOUT THIS? "IS THERE SOMEONE ELSE, HARRIET?"

NO, NOBODY! I ALREADY TOLD YOU. NOBODY IN PARTICULAR ANYWAY.

JEEZIZ, HARRIET! I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WORSE! BEING DUMPED FOR NOBODY OR FOR NOBODY IN PARTICULAR! YOU COULD AT LEAST HAVE HAD THE DECENCY TO HAVE AN AFFAIR!

IT'S JUST THAT I'VE BEEN MEETING A LOT OF NEW PEOPLE SINCE I STARTED VOLUNTEERING FOR THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON. I'M REALIZING THERE ARE THINGS I WANT THAT I'M NOT GETTING HERE.

LIKE WHAT? SOMEONE WHO MAKES LOTS OF MONEY AND LIKES TO SPEND IT ON ELECTRONIC GADGETS? SOMEONE WHO'LL EAT AT BUNGER KING WITH YOU? WHAT?

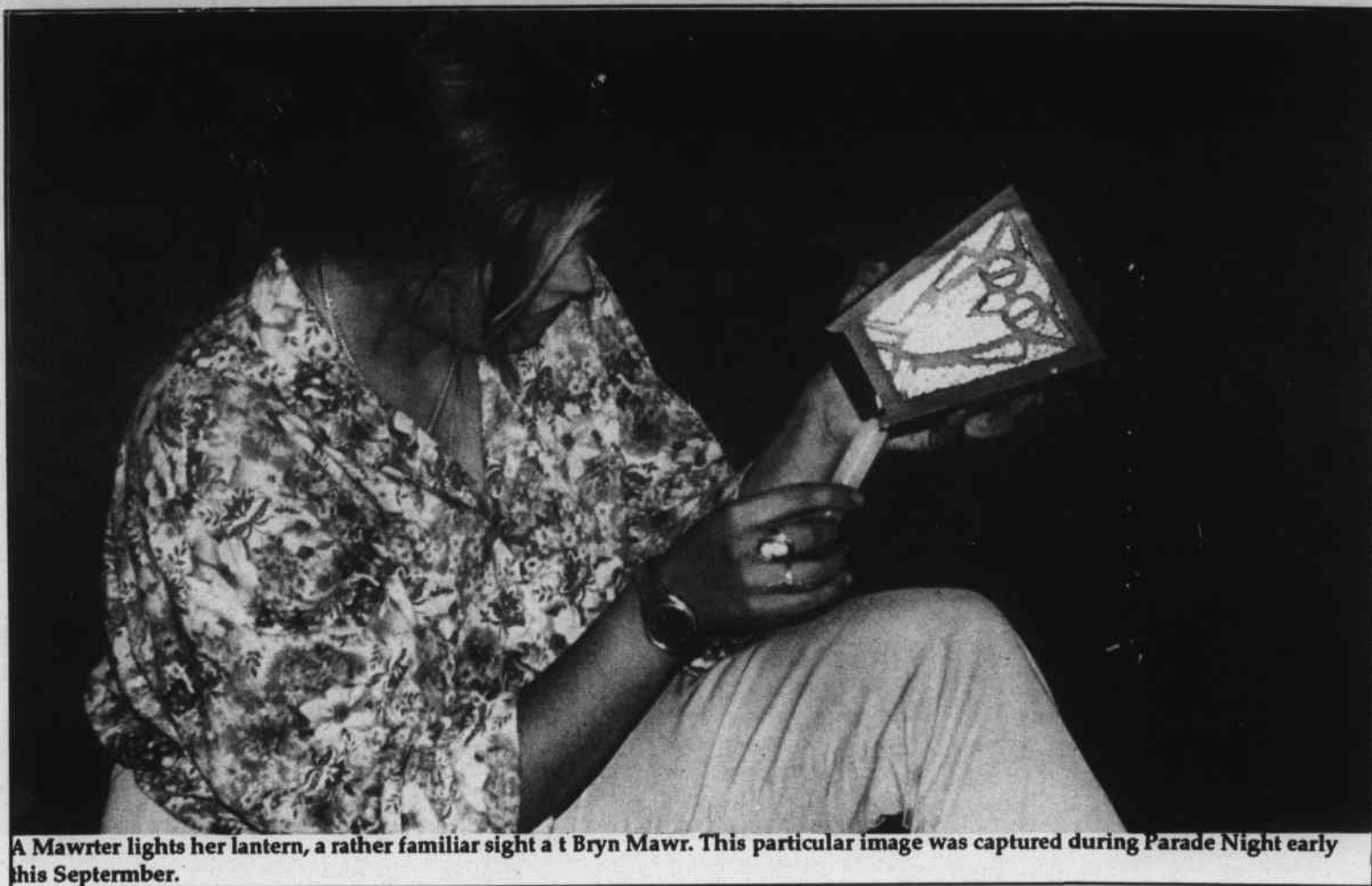
LIKE SOMEONE WHO'S NOT SO NEGATIVE AND JUDGMENTAL? SOMEONE WHO CAN GIVE ME SOME SUPPORT INSTEAD OF WHINING ALL THE TIME? I'M TIRED OF THIS!

FINE! THEN LEAVE! GO GET SOME "SUPPORT" FROM YOUR NEW FRIENDS! GO ON! WHO'S STOPPING YOU?

FINE. I DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO THIS. I'M GOING TO A COMMITTEE MEETING.

WHAT TIME WILL YOU BE BACK? I'LL SAVE YOU SOME CURRIED SPINACH SURPRISE!

We are all living our o



A Mawrter lights her lantern, a rather familiar sight at Bryn Mawr. This particular image was captured during Parade Night early this September.

Are Women, Womyn or Wimmin?

By Lena Kopelow

On the evening of Saturday, September twelfth, Bryn Mawr senior Meghan Smith and sophomore Inga Henson threw the women's party, an unofficial yet notorious college tradition. As in the past, the party took place in the Erdman living room.

Halfway into the party the chips and soda ran out but—by no means due to an overwhelming attendance; the crowd remained sparse and reached a peak of about thirty people at 12:30 A.M.

The hostesses featured eighties pop as the musical genre of the evening. Familiar classics such as Cyndi Lauper's "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" wafted out of a small tape player on one side of the room and quickly dissipated into the cavernous space. The sole decoration, a lava lamp next to the radio, did little to enhance Erdman's well-known somber interior.

Despite the small crowd and disappointing ambiance, the party-goers enthusiastically danced and sang along to tinny-sounding Prince and Madonna songs. One senior speculated that this women's party seemed less spectacular than previous ones because it was only the beginning of the year. "There isn't any tension to let go of yet. People get wild and crazy at these things later into the year when they're under more pressure. Also, the Freshmen haven't been initiated into this women's stuff yet."

Indeed, Juniors and Seniors made up the bulk of the crowd. But what exactly is this "women's stuff" and why would students need initiation into it? One would think that students at a women's college would have no qualms about attending a women-only event.

Not so, as I found out earlier that day when I'd spoken with students who didn't plan to go to the party. Although some of the students whom I questioned answered that they didn't have time or simply weren't the social type, some students admitted that they weren't going because they felt inhibited.

A recent Bryn Mawr graduate frankly replied "I never went to those things. I feel that they're exclusive and not open to heterosexual women. Did the posters [advertising the party] say 'women' with a 'y'?"

Some of the posters did in fact read "womyn's party" but mentioned nothing about sexual orientation. Although another Mawrter made no mention of sexual preference, she also considered this spelling elitist. "I'm not going because those people wouldn't consider me woman with a y. And anyway, people always take off their shirts at these parties."



Nicole Lucier appropriately clad for the Womyn's Party.

During my freshman year at Bryn Mawr I, too had heard that by the end of the women's parties everyone was dancing in their bras. Although such behavior sounded outrageous at the time, after I'd witnessed it a couple of times I decided that it was rather apropos. Most of the women sported black and red bras which, on a dark dance floor, looked remarkably similar to a tight revealing item that one might wear to a dance club.

However, the fact that men often try to go to the women's parties continues to shock me. Last year a senior boycotted one of the parties because the bouncers, out of principle of course, turned her boyfriend away at the

door. This year a male Haverford senior, who failed to gain entrance when he first arrived, dealt with the gender barrier by returning a little later dressed as a woman. He summed up the experience as "pretty fun."

Another Haverford man anticipated problems at the door and arrived in a gold lamé dress. He told me that the bouncers conceded to let him in only after another Mawrter vouched for him: "After all, he *did* make an effort," she pointed out.

While at first the idea of an all women's party may not sound problematic, the fact that it evokes such a variety of responses in our community raises some provocative questions. Why did the party divide women rather than uniting them? In theory the whole school should have showed up.

Equally ironically, the two men at the party attained "womynhood" by simply putting on dresses and lipstick while some Mawrters, who had the added advantage of already being women, still felt that the term "womyn" didn't apply to them. Clearly, there's some confusion about the meaning of the word and stigma which it carries. In short, it all depends upon whom you ask.

I wonder if sometimes we're exclusive in our attempt to foster an inclusive community. On the other hand maybe certain students themselves are at fault for perceiving an elite called "womyn." Does the college, also an all women's environment, experience these same politics on a larger scale?

Just as the women's party graciously admitted two men who changed into dresses, we likewise let men into our classes provided that they play by our rules: no male domination in the classroom and humility at all costs—we're empowered and don't you forget it. When we distinguish "womyn" from women, however, we're merely undermining our professed female solidarity.

We can strengthen the integrity of our community if we continue to reconcile this splintering. Clarifying the catchword "womyn" might attract more students to the women's party and, more importantly, make us less wary of each other.

First imp a freshman's

By Nina Ellis

As the bus drove through the small but quaint towns of Haverford, Ardmore, and Bryn Mawr, with their stone buildings and beautiful, large houses, I thought to myself, "This definitely is not Southern California!"

The autobus that everyone referred to as the "Blue Bus" turned into a little parking lot in Bryn Mawr College. I began to get a bit nervous. Everyone was told to get off and get their keys. We all crammed into a little room at the front of a building labeled "Public Safety." I felt like a herded animal at that point, but I, nevertheless, wrote my name, dorm, and room number on the green card handed to me.

While I waited for my key, a uniformed man asked me for the sunglasses I was wearing. I was shocked that he talked to me. I must have looked stupefied or scared because a third year Mawrter stepped in and said, "That's just...," she called him by name. That confirmed my initial suspicions: everyone here knew everyone else and I knew nobody. They were one big circle outside of which I was trapped.

I reboarded the bus. It rolled forward a few hundred feet. I was told to get off and take my luggage. I dragged all of my bags off and looked up at the large stone arch before me. It read Denbigh Hall. The front door was open, so I walked in and up the steps. When I finally made it to my room, on the third floor, I was convinced that this was not the place for me. First, I felt like an outcast, then I found I had to walk up a thousand steps to get to a room that felt like the inside of a heating duct.

After attending a few classes, I noticed



Brecon freshmen were the w

Suffragette City



The smoking debate

article continued from page three

windows. Erdman residents, however, complained by leaving notes in Erdman Dining Hall. They contended that cigarette smoke rises into their rooms and pervades their breathing space.

Julie Fanburg, who is allergic to cigarette smoke, strongly affirmed that smoke spread through the air of the Café and Haffner Dining Hall, so much so that she said the air was "contaminated" with smoke. Jennifer Simpson was quoted in the *Bi-College News* as having said, "I feel that if people want to smoke they can do it outdoors instead of subjecting others to their smoke." Michele Magrino added that she simply "does not like smoke in her food." In light of scientific discoveries concerning the dangers of second-hand smoke, it seems indeed clear that non-smokers' dissatisfaction was legitimate.

That the issue of smoking has been festering on campus now seems obvious; the administration's decision merely fueled a debate that had been waiting to happen. Action has been taken to ensure discussion between smokers, non-smokers and the administration. SGA has formed a group of four students (Marlies Bull, Micki McElya, Julie Fanburg and Sarah Rockwell), who spoke with Debra Thomas, and plan to meet with Craig Goodrich and Phyllis Lachs, the College attorney, before the end of this month. Although smokers hope to see their smoking areas returned, it seems more likely that some form of compromise will be reached. What this compromise will be is unclear at the moment. Julie

Fanburg suggests that long-term solutions should be considered, especially concerning ventilation.

Important, at this point, is that discussion should take place between the administration and the student body. The concern of most members of the community is that Bryn Mawr College's faith in respect and dialogue, as expressed in its Honor Code, should be seen as an inherent part of these discussions.

Bryn Mawr College Performing Art Series presents:
Donald Byrd/The Group

in the world premier of *Drastic Cuts*, on Friday, September 25, 1992 in Goodhart Hall at 8:00 p.m. Admission for Tri-College students is \$1. There is a master class for Intermediate and Advanced levels on Thursday, September 24 at 3:30 p.m. in Schwartz Gymnasium. For tickets or information, call x5210 weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Dancers from Donald Byrd/The Group, scheduled to perform at Bryn Mawr tomorrow.

Dykes To Watch Out For



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Dykes To Watch Out For



arts & entertainment

The Pink Melon Joy Experience

Ambiguity, intertextuality, and stunning visuals

By Dori Tunstall

"If you enjoy it, you understand it," wrote Gertrude Stein. This phrase was the key to understanding (enjoying) the experience called *Pink Melon Joy* written by Stein and performed by Mark Lord's Potlatch (plays and spectacles) at the Philadelphia Art Alliance.

Directed by Mark Lord and designed by Hiroshi Iwasaki and Jonathan Sher, *Pink Melon Joy* was a joy in its cinematic theatricality. In a fashion similar to Mark Lord's production of *Hamlet*, the play was presented in a series of vignettes with the audience moving from each exquisitely designed room to room.

From the opening scene, which begins with a woman crossing the street and entering the play from the theater entrance and playing a game of checkers on a black and white checkered floor with photographs of the characters, played by BMC alumnae Cheryl Gilbert and Janet Finegar (which we later find out are guests at some strange party), I thought that this was going to be an experience of semantic projectiles where the meaning of everything goes over my head.

I, like the rest of the audience, spent the first third of the play exchanging looks of incomprehension with others as we attempted to discover not only the plot, but also the relationships between the four main characters: a femme fatale, played by Andrea Portes, BMC '93; the androgynous hostess, played by Bea Swedlow BMC '92; Alfie (a character reminiscent of Buster Keaton from Lord's *Buster Keaton's Trip*), played by Eliot Angle HC '91; and a detective, played by F. Jack Bantree.

During the second third of the play I realized that these relationships were purposely ambiguous (was the femme fatale involved with the Hostess, or Alfie, or the Detective? What kind of bizarre party were we witnessing?) and quit trying to figure things out.

That was the moment the play came alive. Each vignette became a mood recalling recognizable images from cinema and literature. The femme fatale, deftly played Portes, became a caricature of Betty Davis', then Gloria Swanson's, femme fatale. Bantree's engaging detective was Bogart's Philip Marlowe, and every detective from the 1940s genre of detective stories. Angle's Alfie was every endearingly pathetic lover from the age of black and white film. Swedlow's riveting hostess/host captured the essence of the man/woman of power and influence found in the cinema. (I think especially of a character from Jean Renoir's *The Rules*

of the Game). The pleasure and understanding of *Pink Melon Joy* came from watching and discovering the permutations and intertextuality of the characters and their situations. It is the same pleasure obtained from watching *Casablanca*—the pleasure of the intellectual and emotional responses to generic archetypes of character, situation, and mood.

I spent the last third of the play enraptured by the stunning visuals and the verbal virtuoso of the experience that was *Pink Melon Joy*. I could not tell you if I understood it or even if I knew what was going on. All I can tell you is that I enjoyed it. And in that sense, *Pink Melon Joy* was all the understanding I needed.

Notes on confusion and angst

By Lourdes-marie Prophete

I can't write a review of *Pink Melon Joy*. I can't get past the feeling that I should understand something if I want to critique it—especially since this is public writing. But, I can write about my experience of seeing this Production.

Before I even went to the play, I prepared myself. I had seen *Death of a Salesman*, another play directed by Mark Lord, last year and didn't want the same thing that happened then to happen again. At *Death of a Salesman*, I spent most of my time thinking "What the hell are they doing?" I kept feeling that if I was just a little smarter I would know.

It was very stressful. Someone mentioned to me later that it was supposed to be a very good comedy. Then I really felt lost, because I could count on one hand how many times I laughed. This time, I told myself, I am not going to try to understand anything; I will just let "art wash all over me." This is a phrase that I have

picked up, and I thought it would be the perfect attitude to have when seeing a Mark Lord production. It didn't work. As soon as the play started I spent most of my time searching for a clue.

Potlatch (plays and spectacles) performed *Pink Melon Joy*, a play written by Gertrude Stein. The Play was directed by the head of our theater department, Mark Lord, and presented by the Philadelphia Art Alliance. I was told before I went to the play that Gertrude Stein is a weird writer, and that this play doesn't

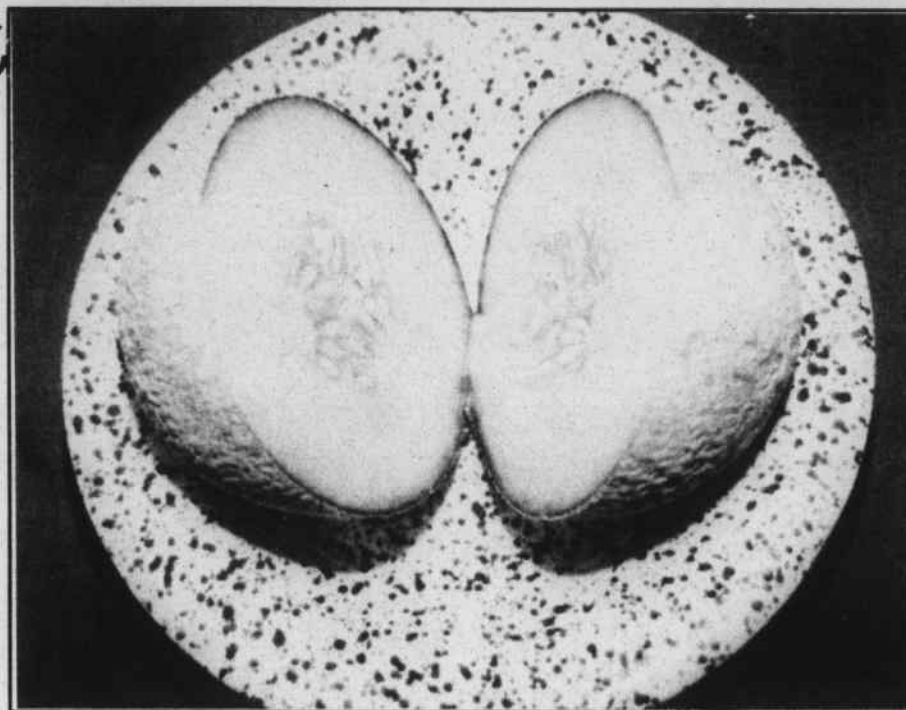


Photo by Amy Cavalier

have a plot or a point in any traditional sense. So I knew what I was getting into. If I couldn't get *Death of a Salesman* with a plot, how was I going to get *Melon* without one? Maybe I wanted the challenge, maybe because it sounded like a college thing to do, maybe it's because there's a part of me that wants to wear all black (black lipstick, too) and talk about things that make sense to only a select group of people. Anyway, I went to the play. I sat down and read the play bill. There was a quote by Gertrude Stein that said, "If you enjoy it, you understood it." That really fired me up. I was determined to enjoy myself.

I spent the rest of the evening thinking: I will understand, I will enjoy myself. I will! Darn it to heck! I will! And then there were about five people who laughed often, and seemed to understand everything. That was really frustrating. If everybody looked like they were just as confused as me, it would have

been much easier for me to just sit back and watch, but the fact that there were five odd people who laughed uproariously with the play, and not at the play, made me feel like there was something I must be missing, that I should try harder to understand.

The Experience

The play moved around the building and the audience, limited to 30, followed them. I just realized how symbolic that was. I was following them, but, in both a physical and metaphysical sense, I had

no clue where we were going. There were six characters, including a couple of the actors I had seen perform in *Death of a Salesman*. I should say that a friend, with whom I saw this play, liked it so much that she went to see it again. She is the author of the other review of this play.

There was no plot and there were no conversations in the traditional sense. I never knew what they were doing. I got the feeling that the performers worked very hard to say their lines exactly how they said it and when. It definitely felt as if they had choreographed everything to near split second timing. Every word was uttered in a precise manner, with a studied tone and inflexion. It felt mechanical. It is as if the director told them, "Three seconds after he says 'I want to go' in a confident sad tone, you will say in a happy, quiet tone 'I like pictures,' then you will walk three steps, stop, and say to the ceiling, 'I could wear red shoes,' in a melancholy voice. (And, yes, this is what the dialogue was like).

The actors showed very little of themselves in the performance. I know that is usually a compliment, but I don't mean it in that way. They seemed to be vehicles for the ideas and words of someone else. I remember wondering sometimes if in the future Mark Lord would have had robots play this. I didn't feel like their interpretation of the character and their feelings about the play were expressed. Maybe that is one of the reasons I had a hard time becoming involved with the play. I felt like there were a lot of ideas and thoughts shot out at me, but that there was little emotional involvement with those words. Emotional involvement must come from the actor not from the words.

See Notes on angst on pg. 12

Breaking bread, Ethiopian style: A restaurant review

By Yuko Nakaniwa

If you're one of those people who can only think about food right around five o'clock, or if you're just the type of person who enjoys a good conversation over an enlightening meal, or if you simply like to eat, you're in the right spot. Think about all the fabulous restaurants awaiting your visit!

Dahlak is definitely such a restaurant. Being one of the two places in Philadelphia serving Ethiopian food, Dahlak evokes visions of a country rich in natural resources and magnificent scenery.

More than that, you'll just find their food simply IRRESISTIBLE. Most entrees are served with *injera*, a traditional bread that looks like a large crepe. Many stew-like dishes are also served upon a sheet of *injera*. The ritual of breaking *injera* and eating from the same plate with fingers signifies the bonds of loyalty and friendship among the people sharing the same table. The stew-like dishes are served in beef, lamb, chicken and vegetable variations, which are characterized by spices that range from spicy (with *berbere*, a typical Ethiopian red pepper) to very mild.

The following are just a few entrees you wouldn't want to miss: The *Shrimp Alichia*—shrimp cooked in a mild sauce with garlic, onion, butter and spices with sour cream (\$6.75). The *Yedoro Ataklt*—tender chicken cooked with niter kibbch (it's a sort of spice, I think), green peppers, broccoli, carrots, onion, garlic and ginger (\$6.50). The *Dahlak Tibs*—tender beef cubes sautéed with pepper, onions, fresh tomatoes and special house spices (\$6.75). If you can't decide, order the combination platter (\$9.00 per person, \$16.50 for two) offered in beef, chicken, lamb or vegetarian. And don't forget to

try their original Tomato Salad (\$3.00) or the Ethiopian Potato Salad (\$3.50).

So why not spend your next weekend satisfying your appetite with some delightful Ethiopian food at Dahlak located on 4708 Baltimore Avenue!!

More information:

•Dahlak is open daily, Tuesday through Sunday, from 4 pm. An all-you-can-eat buffet is offered from 5 pm to 7 pm on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

•Directions: Take the high-speed line to 69th Street Terminal, change to the blue line, get off at 40th, walk over to Baltimore Avenue and find your way to Dahlak up the Avenue.

Possessing the Secret of Joy— An Alice Walker book

By Ellis Avery

Possessing the Secret of Joy, by Alice Walker. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1992. Available at Canaday.

From the dedication page I could tell Alice Walker had a project in mind: *This book is dedicated/ with tenderness and respect/ to the blameless/ vulva*. What follows is a powerful story, by turns beautiful and grisly, of an African woman's search for sanity and the secret of joy, after a life in America traumatized by childhood ritual circumcision. At the same time, *Possessing...* is a passionate and articulate argument against female genital mutilation. It's not a comfortable book to read.

The characters in the novel are familiar: Tashi, who takes the name Evelyn when she comes to America, first appears as the friend of Celie's two children in *The Color Purple*; Celie's daughter Olivia has a place in *The Temple of My Familiar*. The present of the story is similar to that of Camus' *The Stranger*: Tashi/Evelyn is looking back over her life as she awaits execution. As a girl, her village, Olinka, was dispersed by European businessmen. Her people fled and formed a guerilla enclave, and she joined them, undergoing the initiation ritual of clitorodectomy. By maintaining the traditional practice, she was assured, she kept her people alive as Olinkans.

As she healed, her childhood friend Adam, the American missionary's son, came to find her, and they left for America to marry. Outside of the context which justified it, her mutilated body and the stories it bore began to haunt her. She lived in America for maybe twenty years,

and decided, growing older, to return and kill M'lissa, the elder who had circumcised her, now an Olinkan national treasure.

Possessing the Secret of Joy describes two journeys. It follows Tashi/Evelyn through her madness and treatment, and it follows the scholarly path of Pierre, her stepson, as he tries to uncover the mythical and historical basis for the initiation ritual.

Walker does a lot of explication through Pierre; his studies, though they supply necessary information, are the least seamless element of the book. This research, combined with the Olinkans, a fictional people invented to articulate a real situation, sometimes makes the book feel over-constructed.

I suppose, though, that the problem with writing the unwritten, with creating an unconventional novel, is that one has to go through the awkward process of setting forth one's new conventions: no one said expanding the literary world was going to be slick.

The title of the book, *Possessing the Secret of Joy*, is part of a proud, eloquent reply to the epigraph, a quote from Mirella Ricciardi's *African Saga*—"Black people are natural, they possess the secret of joy, which is why they can survive the suffering and humiliation inflicted upon them." In response to this and similar sentiments, in response to Tashi/Evelyn's trauma, in response to the Olinkan struggle for independence, the book ends with Tashi/Evelyn's last sight. Just before she is shot, all the people dear to her open up a banner: *RESISTANCE IS THE SECRET OF JOY!*



By Sharon Cleary

"Enchanted April" is a film adaptation of Elizabeth Von Armin's novel, in which sun-drenched Italy rescues a quartet of women from the dreary, industrial landscape of post-World War I London. It's uncannily reminiscent of Merchant-Ivory's, "A Room with a View," but all is forgiven once we acknowledge our desire for yet another chronicle of love and rebirth in the Italian hills.

The villa which inspires this renaissance of spirit is, remarkably, named San Salvatore; Salvatore, meaning, of course,

Enchanted April, a transformation

salvation. Hmmm... As the film progresses, hair is unbraided, undergarments are discarded (along with them inhibition) until it begins to resemble a subtly orgiastic Victorian fantasy. The film is best when it is converting an array of London stereotypes into the free spirits evidently created by the poppy-besieged castle. Afterwards, it quickly slips into syrupy sentimentality, which is, sometimes, a necessary drug.

In conclusion, "Enchanted April" is shameless, slightly calculated fun, but your better half rebukes you for enjoying it. I saw it twice.

Witticisms

Now, should it be long and drawn out
NEEEEEVEER MOOOORE,
Short and Sharp
NEVER MORE!
or maybe faintly, almost gasping?



The Agony of Bit Part Actors.

CR



Photo by Amy Cavalier

Engman's "Sisypha"

Sculptor explores roles of women, new and old

By Erika Merschrod

You'd think that after being at Bryn Mawr for a year I would not feel intimidated by being in an elegant hall (a Great Hall) surrounded by women saying some very powerful things. Yet intimidation is the only word I can think of to describe my emotions as I looked at and experienced Kerstin Engman's sculpture exhibition entitled "Daughters."

On the one hand were the small sculptures, some of which were fully clothed and relatively harmless; on the other hand was *Picking Up*, a powerful statue in its size alone. (I still haven't decided exactly what else makes it such a disturbing piece. Any suggestions?)

The most disturbing pieces, however, were those that fell in the middle, literally; they fell into your middle, your most vulnerable spot. They were relatively small and one could look over them at the attractive panelling on the walls or at the flower-bearing Athena in the corner. Yet one couldn't overlook them.

As a woman for whom talking about smelly feet is taboo, I was rather unsettled yet pleasantly surprised by such stark yet eloquent expressions of subjects like aging (and sagging breasts) and the sexual exploitation and objectification of women.

Not only were Engman's pieces intellectually and emotionally stimulating; they were all incredibly beautiful. The most amazing part of the exhibit for me was to be able to look at *The Burden of the Egg* or *Persephone* and not feel like there was anything wrong with either one.

After getting over the feeling that somehow I shouldn't be seeing "these things", I was able to step back and look at the exhibit as a whole without losing sight of the individual pieces. Then I understood what Kerstin Engman means when she writes, "Each piece is autonomous and quiet."

The exhibit will be showing in the Great Hall through October 12. Come see it, if only to admire the strength and balance of *Sisypha*.

Singles and Seattle kick ass

By Jsa-Jsa Gibson

Cameron Crowe knows good music when he hears it. "Singles" is the newest soundtrack from the writer/director who's previous films include "Say Anything" and "Fast Times at Ridgemont High." Two great films with equally great soundtracks. "Singles" is no exception.

"Singles" is mostly a compilation of various Seattle bands. (Before I begin, one small disclaimer: I am a little prejudiced when it comes to Seattle. Whether it is rain, espresso, or music, I am known to proclaim it all started there because I call it home.)

There are two tracks from Paul Westerberg (he's from Minneapolis) of Replacements fame, and one from the Chicago-based Smashing Pumpkins. However, we will get to these three later. Here again, Seattle is first.

The best track is undoubtedly "Seasons," written, produced, mixed, and performed by Chris Cornell of Soundgarden. It is hypnotizing. His voice

and the acoustic guitar weave so intimately around one another that at times they seem like one and the same thing. If you did not read the cover, it would seem impossible that the soft spoken on track number three, becomes the deep voiced, and at the refrain, almost satanic front man for Soundgarden. Track seven is Soundgarden's "Birth Ritual." It kicks ass.

Also on the album is the "newest" thing from Seattle, Pearl Jam. The two original songs are called "Breath" and "State of Love and Trust." Both are good but neither is as striking as, say, "Evenflow" on their top selling album "Ten." The better of the two tunes (with a cool name, too) is the upbeat "State of Love and Trust." Eddie Vedder (he's actually not from Seattle; he's from California) sings with passion and energy as always. Eddie kicks ass. (So does Mike McCready on guitar, but again I am biased. In eight grade, I had a crush on him.)

see *Singles and Seattle* on pg 11

Dates Women Make

Thursday, September 24th

Project Vote. SGA-sponsored VOTER REGISTRATION. Campus Center, Bryn Mawr College, 9:00 am — 5:00pm.

Women and War: The Experience of War in Former Yugoslavia. LECTURE by Andrea Feldman. Chase 104, Haverford College, 4:30pm.

Swarthmore Music and Dance FESTIVAL. Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, the Colorado String Quartet, and others! Week One, Sept. 23 — 27. Call 328-8533 for information.

Friday, September 25th

Susan Scott, Bryn Mawr College Public Information, SIGNING *Columbine*, her newest novel. Bryn Mawr College Bookstore, 1:00 - 3:00pm.

Cyprus' Sacred Island: Ecology and Archaeology. Classics Colloquium. LECTURE by Joan Conelly, New York University. Goodhart Common Room, Bryn Mawr College, 4:00pm.

Colleen Randall, paintings on EXHIBIT. List Gallery, Swarthmore College. Until September 26th. Call 328-8533.

Altars, Divination and Icons. Artists from diverse cultural backgrounds explore concepts of spirituality. The Painted Bride ART Center, 230 Vine Street, Philadelphia. Until October 11th. Call 925-9914.

Linda Connor, exhibition of Spiral Journey PHOTOGRAPHS 1967 — 1990. Comfort Gallery, Haverford College. Until October 18th. Thursday through Sunday, 2 — 6pm. Call 896-1287.

CAMPUS WRITERS at Borders: Collegiate writers from Villanova, Haverford and Bryn Mawr read from their work. Borders bookstore/café, Lancaster Ave., Bryn Mawr, 7:30pm.

Lighted Fools PERFORMANCE. Founders Great Hall, Haverford College, 8:00pm.

Donald Byrd / The Group (DANCE performance). Bryn Mawr College Performing Arts Series. Goodhart, Bryn Mawr College, 8:00pm. Call 526-5210, tickets also at the door (students \$1).

Saturday, September 26th

MARCH AND RALLY: Money for jobs, housing and social programs! Cut the military budget! March starts at 11:30 am from Calvary Baptist Church, 1616 West 2nd Street in Chester. Rally at 1:00pm at Chester City Hall, 5th and Welsh Streets. Speakers include Chester Mayor Barbara Bohannon-Sheppard, Chester City Councilwoman Annette Burton, Barbara Smith (National Jobs With Peace) and Leona Smith (National Union of Homeless). Music, food. Call 872-7565.

"Love For Sale": Buying to Beat AIDS. 10% of purchases made in selected stores will be donated to Action AIDS and the AIDS Library of Philadelphia. See a copy of the City Paper for a list of stores on the Main Line and in Center City.

Sunday, September 27th

Lyrics of Love, Laughter and Lament: 4,000 Years of Anatolian POETRY, presented by Talat S. Halman. Thomas Great Hall, Bryn Mawr College, 4:30pm.

Tuesday, September 29th

Gia Hansbury, BMC '93, POETRY reading. North Star Bar, 27th and Poplar, Philadelphia. 7:30pm, admission \$4.

Thursday, October 1st

Beyond Murphy Brown: Black Teen Mothers and the Intersection of Gender, Race and Class. LECTURE by Professor Elaine Kaplan, University of Southern California. Kirby, Swarthmore, 4:30pm.

Sunday, October 4th

Hildegard Players. Bryn Mawr Chamber MUSIC Society. Music by women composers. Goodhart Music Room, Bryn Mawr College, 3:00pm.

Friday, October 23rd

Night Owls A CAPELLA concert with the Princeton Footnotes and another group to be announced later. Thomas Great Hall, Bryn Mawr College, 8:00pm.

October 25th

Philadelphia AIDS Walk (12 km). Call 351-1500 to walk or to volunteer.

Every Wednesday

Make It A Night! Selected Center City STORES open late. Sidewalk musicians, store discounts, free parking!



Dear Ms. Hank,

Being back in school sucks. It sucks so bad, I'd rather watch reruns on the tube. Nothing is stimulating, or engaging; well, not nothing—I do have this one class from which I receive good vibes, but everything else sucks. It sucks so bad, that speculating who's going to win on Star Search is better. It's September and I am overworked and very uptight. I am so uptight, I'd... Anyway, how can I put some spice and life into my days of inertia and oblivion? (And don't suggest finding a love interest, for a non-drinking heterosexual on campus that is a dead end. It is such a dead end, that lusting after a fictional TV character with a bad haircut from the Seventies is more gratifying.)

May your reign on agony columns be as lasting and as fruitful as that of the Bill Cosby Show, that show is so good, it's better than vanilla ice cream,

A woman who wants a life as sunny and energetic as one of the 90210 characters

Dear Ms. 90210,

And others who are as concerned as yourself. When you find yourself in the paralyzed state of September blues, here are a few suggestions to help ameliorate those hours of boredom and sheer inertia:

- Pretend you're a Bi-Co reporter and take a random sample of people in Philadelphia and ask them 1) who'd they write in for president, and 2) where they were the day John Kennedy was assassinated (Nov. 23, 1963) and who they think *really* killed him.

- Carry a hammer and chisel to the liberty bell and stand there looking like you cracked it.
- Apply for a vending license if you don't have an on-campus job.
- Get a written note from the mayor excusing you from potato lectures.
- Lose a contact and get as many people as you can to help you look for it. Audit a class at Penn (State).

Down with the patriarchy,
and power to all sisters in struggle,
Ms. Hank

Singles, the soundtrack, and Seattle, the city

continued from pg. 10

The rest of the crop includes Mudhoney, Screaming trees, Mother Love Bone (no longer existent—the lead singer, Andy Wood, sadly o.d.'ed in 1991), and Alice in Chains. Mudhoney's contribution is a song called "Overblown" which proclaims "Everybody loves our town/ That's why I am thinking of leaving/ It is so overblown."

The Screaming Trees do "Nearly Lost You." Mother Love Bone has an over 8-minute song called "Chloe Dancers/

Crown of Thorns" written by the late Wood. It is a beautiful and weird love song about loneliness and the bitterness love produces which "feels like a crown of thorns." It is weird.

Alice in Chains "Would?" was the first single released. The song itself doesn't have the raw edge of AC's earlier album or even that of their latest, the acoustic EP "SAP." (I have a tendency to judge a song harshly when I am aware that Top 40

See *Singles* and *Seattle* on pg. 12

Dykes To Watch Out For



A Woman in Politics we didn't get to see: Hillary Clinton explains why

September 18, 1992

To those in attendance at "Leaders—Born or Made? Women in Politics:"

I am sorry I could not be here with you today at Bryn Mawr, one of the greatest colleges in America. Although my schedule would not allow me the pleasure of returning today, my spirit is with you as you open this symposium on the status of women in politics.

The media has been calling 1992 the Year of the Woman. The truth is that every year is the Year of the Woman, because every year women break new ground and explore uncharted. We need only consider how far women have come in the last ninety-two years to realize the success that our collective struggle has had. Thanks to the courageous and caring women who have gone before us this century—Eleanor Roosevelt and Ella Baker, Fannie Lou Hamer and Frances Perkins, Susan B. Anthony and Septima Clark, Mary Mcleod Bethune and Elizabeth Cady Stanton—women have come out of the shadows and into the spotlight of American political life.

And while women have been blessed by the contributions and legacy of our foremothers, we know that we cannot rest on their achievements. This election year, women across America must cast off their cynicism and participate actively to shape their own and their country's future. Women must make an effort to register and take the time to vote, because America depends on it.

If women make the effort this month and take the time in November, 1992 will witness the election of a new group of pioneers—among them Lynn Yeakel, Carol Moseley Braun, Barbara Boxer, and Diane Feinstein. It will also see the election of a President who will be a positive force rather than a stumbling block for

women's progress. 1992 can be a historic year for women and for America if we are willing to work for it.

I hope that every person here helps make history this November, so that at future symposia we remember 1992 as a turning not only for women, but for America.

With best wishes for today and beyond, I am

Sincerely yours,

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Singles and Seattle

continued from pg. 11

stations may, at this moment in time, be playing it.)

And just to give the final touches to the Seattle sound, a couple of earlier "natives," as we refer to ourselves, are thrown in. The first is Jimi Hendrix and "May This Be Love." Jimi is, was, and always will be, the definition of kick ass. Also there is a track by a group called the Lovemongers, who are the newest band of Ann and Nancy Wilson of Heart fame. (Nancy also happens to be Crowe's wife.) They do an absolutely perfect version of Led Zeppelin's, "Battle of Evermore."

After all that said, I have to give some time to the Midwest. Both Westerberg songs are commercial and fun (read in—slightly annoying) and Smashing Pumpkin's "Drown" is mesmerizing.

"Singles" is worth your money. There is not one "B-side" on the whole album. You may have to skip over the hard stuff or skip over the Westerberg stuff, but undoubtedly you will find something that suits your own personal "kick ass" taste. Don't miss Chris Cornell. He is brilliant.

THE NIGHT LIFE...



EVENING CAFE

@ BRING COUPON
VALID UNTIL 9/14

Notes on confusion and angst article continued from page nine

Often I was tempted to close my eyes and just let the words wash over me. I did a few times. It felt like a poem. And like poems, sometimes I can't get the connection between the words, though I can appreciate the sound of the language. And I mustn't forget to mention that it was very beautiful to watch, like a mov-

ing painting.

Did I enjoy it? Not really. Which means I didn't understand it either. Why? I don't know. Society. Family values. Bad encounters with melons when I was very young. It was definitely interesting and I figured out a lot about what I like and don't like about art from *Pink Melon Joy*.

SPORTS

THE HORNED TOADS RUGBY SCHEDULE FALL 1992

DATE:	TEAM/EVENT:
•September 25	•Swarthmore
•October 3	•U. of Scranton
•October 4	•Franklin & Marshall
•October 17	•Penn State
•October 24	•Playoffs
•November 7	•West Chester U.

All of the above are away games, but people interested in going to watch and cheer on the Horned Toads can call Eleni Varitimos or Renata Razza about arranging transportation. Be sure to check out the games; last season, they kicked some serious butt and hopefully will do keep up the tradition this season.

KARATE! KARATE! KARATE! KAR

It's fun, it's powerful, it's exciting...it's the

Harmony With Nature Karate Club!

Have you always wanted to learn karate...?

Have you studied a martial art before...?

Do you have no idea what karate is about (but are curious)...?

Then you are welcome to *practice* and *learn* at the Harmony With Nature Karate Club! Come anytime during the semester; no experience necessary.

Monday and Thursday 7:00—8:30 p.m. in the Petts Studio of Schwartz Gym. (There will possibly be weekend hours also.)

**Catherine Herne, black belt instructor,
X7519, box C-1329**

ATE! KARATE! KARATE! KARATE!